



BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH
FOR THE YEAR
1973
by
D.J.N. McNAB, VRD., MB., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health
and
CLEMENT WILLARD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing
Superintendent.

HEALTH AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE - JANUARY TO DECEMBER 1973

The Worshipful The Mayor, Alderman Miss. C. Sharp (January to May)
The Worshipful The Mayor, Alderman J. Staniforth (May to December)
Alderman M. Lynk (Chairman January to December)
Councillor A.R. Wiggins (Vice-Chairman January to May)
Alderman E.N. Spreadbury (Vice-Chairman May to December)

Alderman H.R. Bourke	January to May
Alderman K.L. Smith	January to May
Alderman J.R. Bell	May to December
Councillor Mrs. N. Bryan	January to December
Councillor Mrs. V.R. Newbury	January to December
Councillor Mrs. I.A. Stevenson	January to December
Councillor M.A. Hodges	January to May
Councillor W.C. Horsford	January to May
Councillor G.W. Jones	January to May
Councillor I.A. Lennox	January to May
Councillor J. Beauchamp	May to December
Councillor J.O. Holroyd-Doveton	May to December
Councillor J.S. Morgan	May to December
Councillor A.R. Payne	May to December
Councillor A.R. Wiggins	May to December

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

D.J.N. McNAB, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Also Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge and Borough of Lymington and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire.

Address: Druitt Buildings, Christchurch.

Telephone No: Christchurch 4321

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent

CLEMENT WILLARD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and Improvement Officer.

M.H. STOREY, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

D.J. Cartridge, M.A.P.H.I.

R.F. Blinkhorn M.A.P.H.I.

P.S. Oliver M.A.P.H.I.

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH
REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1973

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

This is the twenty seventh and last Annual Report to be submitted by the last Medical Officer of Health of the Municipal Borough of Christchurch, very soon to be succeeded under Local Government Reorganisation by the slightly enlarged new Christchurch District in the new County of Dorset.

As an integral part of this Report there follows the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector on those sections of the work of the Health Department with which he is specially concerned.

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area: 1,923 hectares.

Population: Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1973: 31, 610.

Number of inhabited houses: 13,054.

Rateable value: 1.4.73:£4,520,539.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £45,100.

RAINFALL FOR 1973: (at Sewage Disposal Works, Stony Lane)

	mm.	ins.		mm.	ins.
January ...	... 51.9	2.04	July	33.2	1.30
February...	... 17.8	.70	August	25.3	.99
March ...	... 12.6	.49	September	42.6	1.68
April ...	... 42.6	1.68	October	66.8	2.63
May ...	... 84.5	3.32	November	20.4	.80
June ...	... 42.0	1.65	December	44.3	1.74
<u>TOTAL:</u>		484 mm.	19.02 ins.		

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE:

Disease	Number notified
Measles	5
Encephalitis	1
Meningitis	1

TUBERCULOSIS:

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		
No. on Register at 31.12.73:	178	128	17	22		345
No. of new notifications:	2	3	-	1		6

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS AND POLIOMYELITIS:

Type of Vaccine	Year of Birth					Others under 16	Total
	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969- 66		
DIPHTHERIA WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS							
Primary Re-inforcing	1 -	245 1	85 1	6 2	2 5	2 5	341 14
DIPHTHERIA TETANUS							
Primary Re-inforcing	1 1	- -	- 1	5 2	8 284	- 29	14 317
TETANUS							
Primary Re-inforcing	- -	6 -	- 1	- -	- 1	2 346	8 348
POLIOMYELITIS							
Primary Re-inforcing	2 1	246 1	85 2	11 3	17 284	2 325	363 616

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

	Year of Birth					Others under 16	Total
	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969 - 66		
Primary Re-Vaccination	2 -	10 -	- -	19 3	- -	20 169	51 172

MEASLES VACCINATION

Year of Birth					Others under 16	Total
1973	1972	1971	1970	1969 - 66		
-	209	140	21	69	6	445

RUBELLA (GERMAN MEASLES) VACCINATION:

171 girls under 16 received Rubella Vaccine during the year.

HOUSING:

367 private houses were built during 1973 as compared with 354 in the previous year. No Council Houses were built. 56 demolitions were carried out.

There were 326 applicants on the housing list at the end of the year.

GENERAL REMARKS:

Previous reports have briefly described the constitution and situation of the Borough and have given in some detail the vital statistics of the area and their comparison with national figures. Individual causes of death have been detailed and some relevant comments have been made. None of the figures previously used are available at the time of preparation of this report.

However, since this is the last report, it is perhaps of interest to record some of the figures which were published by my predecessor in 1932 when the Municipal Borough was formed and to contrast them with those in my first report in 1947, and with those for 1972, the last year for which figures are available.

	<u>1932</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1972</u>
Population	11,250	18,180	30,010
No. of inhabited houses	3,150	5,572	12,743
Rateable value	£84,505	£155,489	£2,089,153
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£310	£617	£19,952
No. of Births	180	359	297
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	17	19.7	9.6
No. of Deaths	128	232	513
Death Rate	11.3	12.7	16.5
Infant Mortality Rate	62.5	30.0	24.0

These figures all emphasise the growth of the Town, the increasing age and the declining fertility of the population. It is not a particularly satisfactory trend and there seems little chance of reversal - even under Reorganisation.

Even in my time the Town has grown out of all recognition. In 1947 there were 1,000 families on the housing waiting list, including about 250 who were occupying very substandard accommodation in converted war-time nissen huts at Holmsley. The numbers at Holmsley increased to nearly 300 and the waiting list remained around 1,000 while the large Council Estate at Somerford was developed. The Borough made valiant efforts to deal with its housing problem, and in 1949 had the distinction among non-County Boroughs in England and Wales of having built the second largest number of permanent houses relative to its population, since the war. Large numbers remained in the huts at Holmsley for many years, the last family not being rehoused until 1960. Some of the social problems which stemmed from prolonged occupation of cheap substandard accommodation in an area remote from the Town echoed over the years.

Christchurch used to discharge its crude sewage through an outfall which discharged into the Bay. This was damaged by gales and movement of the sea bed and the Council was advised there was no guarantee that a replacement might not suffer a similar fate. Accordingly it was decided to build an inland Sewage Works at Stony Lane - and that is a saga on its own. Work commenced in 1958, and in the meantime we made use of one of the Bournemouth sea outfalls. The new Sewage Works came fully into operation in 1961 and the Town was able to boast that it was the first in the area to remove its crude sewage from the sea. It is pleasant to be able to make a virtue out of a necessity. Unhappily it soon became evident that the new Works were inadequate to deal with the rapid rise in population and extensions had to be planned. Much ingenuity was exercised by the operating staff in maintaining the Works with a minimum of nuisance, and a reasonable effluent, until the extensions were completed in 1969, since when the Works have been able to cope with all demands, including the adjoining areas of Winkton and Bransgore.

We are fortunate in Christchurch in having an excellent water supply drawn from our own river and provided by an enlightened and progressive private company. It is to be hoped that the approaching reorganisation of water undertakings will do nothing to diminish the excellent service which the Company renders to our community.

It is worth recalling that refuse disposal is not without its benefits and that large areas of land have been reclaimed by controlled tipping and put to good use for the benefit of the public at Stanpit Marsh, The Quays, and Avon Beach.

One of the most significant changes in public health in the post war period has been the dramatic fall in the incidence of infectious disease, largely as the result of the immunisation campaigns which commenced just before the war and continued after it as new immunising substances were evolved for an increasing number of the commoner infections. Antibiotics and others of the newer drugs were another important factor. For example, there were 47,000 cases of Diphtheria in England and Wales in 1939 with 2,000 deaths, whereas in 1972 there were only 5 cases and no deaths.

There has never been a high incidence of Diphtheria in this Borough, but there were 22 cases in the seven years before the war, and no case has been reported since 1947. There were widespread outbreaks of Poliomyelitis in this country in the immediate post-war years - 7,776 cases with 707 deaths in 1947 in England and Wales - but the use of Salk vaccine in 1956 and the oral Sabin vaccine in 1962 brought it under control and there were only 4 cases reported in 1972 with no deaths. In this District we had 43 cases with 3 deaths between 1947 and 1959 and there has been none since. Measles used to be one of the most fatal of all diseases in children under 5 years of age with much residual ill health in those who recovered. Epidemics occurred with unfailing regularity in alternate years, and as recently as 1967 there were 446 cases notified in one year in Christchurch. Measles vaccination, introduced in 1968, reduced the notifications to 15 in 1972. Whooping Cough likewise has decreased progressively until now there has been talk of ceasing vaccination, particularly in the light of unfavourable comment on the use of the vaccine in some circumstances. It is well to remember that vaccination against infections has two effects, it not only protects the subject against the disease for which he has been vaccinated but by increasing the number of immune persons it decreases the volume of circulating infection and so indirectly protects those who have not been vaccinated. This only happens when the rate of vaccination against any particular infection is high. The recent introduction of vaccination against Rubella for girls between the ages of 11 and 14 is designed to reduce the incidence of Rubella in pregnant women with all the tragic consequences that may result therefrom.

It is with a sense of real regret and of failure to serve my community that I record the total lack of success of my efforts to convince the Council of the value of Fluoridation of water supplies. Here was a measure of undoubted public health value which came to naught.

The Council is perhaps all too well aware of my feelings about smoking and its consequences. Since 1950 when it is first recorded in my reports, there have been 368 deaths from lung cancer in Christchurch, the vast majority of which would have been cigarette induced. Few of us have not seen friends or colleagues die in this way and have been acutely conscious that they were persistent smokers. In addition, in this same period there have been 1,830 deaths from coronary thrombosis and 255 deaths from bronchitis. In both of these causes of death smoking is considered to be a factor. So perhaps as many as 1,500 deaths have occurred in Christchurch since 1950, directly or indirectly due to smoking. In the same period there have been 84 deaths from motor vehicle accidents to which much greater publicity is given - cigarette deaths are not accidental and the remedy is much more obvious.

I have greatly enjoyed working in this pleasant area and I have sincerely appreciated the assistance and co-operation which I have always received from colleagues in all departments in the Town Hall. I thank the Public Health Inspectors, past and present, for conscientious and painstaking work which has very greatly contributed to the excellent health record that the Borough enjoys. Finally, I am grateful to Mayors and Councillors, past and present, for their kindness and consideration to me over the years, and as your last Medical Officer of Health I wish the successor authority well in all its great endeavours.

D.J.K., M.C.M.B.

March, 1974.

Medical Officer of Health

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH
REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
AND
CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT
FOR THE YEAR
1973

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH.

I have pleasure in presenting to you my ninth Annual Report covering the work of the department during the year ending 31st December 1973. This will be my last report as I have elected to retire under the Early Retirement Regulations.

The year under review has not unexpectedly been a rather unsettled one. The reorganisation of Local Government and naturally had its effect on the department but nevertheless work proceeded quite smoothly and steady progress was made.

HOUSING

The failure of the Purewell General Improvement Area to show any visable progress has been a great disappointment and I can only hope that the new Council will give full support to my successor and it will not be long before we see this most worthwhile scheme completed.

The acquisition of land, also in Purewell, which includes the Star Inn is another of those schemes which I am proud to say was initiated by this department has made good progress during the year and when completed will enhance the environment of that area considerably.

The amount of work placed on the department by improvement grants has remained similar to that of the previous year. Applications for Qualification Certificates are on the decline.

This department has for many years pressed for the demolition of the Wick Lane Cottages and I am pleased that during the year the site was cleared and work on the new Senior Citizens Dwellings has made good progress.

Improvement Grant Applications	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Standard Grant Applications	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Qualification Certificate Applications							
(Improvement cases)	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
(Granted)	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Qualification Certificate Applications							
(Existing Amenities)	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
(Granted)	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
(Refused)	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
No. of Houses Repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	66
No. of Houses Demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	15

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

The inspection of food premises is a major part of the inspectors' work and every effort is made to inspect all the various food premises in the Borough at regular intervals during the year, the number of visits has again increased considerably.

FOOD INSPECTION

All the Inspectors are qualified meat and food inspectors and food of all descriptions is inspected at the request of any traders in the area. Any shopkeeper who is doubtful about the fitness of any food can contact the department. The food will be inspected and he will be advised accordingly. Should the food prove to be unsound it is taken away and disposed of in the refuse tip under the supervision of the inspector.

The following is a list of food condemned during the year through voluntary surrender.

Meat	266 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Mixed Tins Fruit, Fish and Vegetables	2149 tins
Canned Meat	602 tins
Other Foods	804 pkts.
Cooking Fat	284 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Frozen foods due to breakdown in refrigeration	1411 pkts.
Frozen chickens	133 lbs.
Ice cream	7 gals.
Drinks	48 bottles.
Fresh Fish	1 stone.

MILK SUPPLY

All milk retailed in the borough is bottled at establishments outside the district.

The following list shows the numbers of dairies and persons registered as distributors, and the number and types of licenses in force:-

Number of Distributors of Milk	75
Number of Dairies on Register	3
Dealers licensed to use the designation	
Untreated Milk	6
Dealers licensed to use the designation	
Pasteurised Milk	68
Dealers licensed to use the designation	
Sterilised Milk	24
Dealers licensed to use the designation	
Ultra Heat Treated Milk	14

ICE CREAM

The Department has obtained regular samples of Ice Cream and I am pleased to report that these were of a very high standard. Grades 1 and 2 are considered to be good.

21 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, the results being as follows:-

Grade 1	18
Grade 2	3
Grade 3	1
Grade 4	-

DRAINAGE

The number of properties not drained to sewers, and the facilities available are:-

Draining to Septic Tanks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
Draining to Cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Bucket Latrines	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Draining Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The Borough has 29 Licensed sites, containing a total of 1,131 caravans. There was a considerable increase in the number of inspections to caravan sites, and as a result an improvement in standards.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

There has been an increase in the number of inspections carried out under this heading. The number of premises has again increased and there has been an increase in staff.

The premises registered at the end of the year were as follows:

Offices ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	132
Retail Shops ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	290
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Catering Establishments ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53
Fuel Storage Depots ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

Class of Workplace and the number of persons employed:-

Offices ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	677
Retail Shops ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	861
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
Catering Establishments ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	358
Fuel Storage Depots ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9

A total of 2,035 of which 1175 are females.

SWIMMING POOLS

This department has increased its control over Swimming Pools by more frequent sampling and testing. Greater emphasis is now being placed on testing the pools on the spot and checking for break-point chlorination. If break-point chlorination is maintained, then the pools should be bacteriologically sound. It is intended to continue taking bacteriological samples as in the past but there will be no need to take them so frequently. All swimming pools and paddling pools within the borough have been maintained to a high standard during the year.

The new swimming pool has proved to be more popular than expected and this made control rather difficult. However a satisfactory standard was maintained throughout the season.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) Refuse Collection

This year has proved to be a difficult one for refuse collection, and as a result the weekly collection has suffered. The labour situation has been difficult but transport has been our main problem. Both these factors were out of our control and I think the men did extremely well to maintain a reasonable standard under such difficult circumstances.

(b) Refuse Disposal

Refuse is still being economically disposed of by controlled tipping on the land at Stanpit Marsh, this is expected to last for at least another year and should give the new Dorset County Council time to find alternative sites.

(c) Transport

The full effect of the plating regulations were felt during the year and consequently we had an acute shortage of vehicles. To add to our difficulties the new vehicle was not delivered during the year. The transport situation should be much better for the coming year.

(d) Salvage

Final figures in the income from salvage for the fiscal year are not yet available but as forecasted there will be an increase.

I firmly believe that this scheme has proved to be of benefit to the ratepayers.

PEST CONTROL

Complaints of rat and mice infestation showed a decrease over last year. This is not surprising as the number of complaints received the previous year were abnormally high.

FACTORIES

All the factories in the area have continued to receive attention in order to ensure a satisfactory standard of hygiene, particularly in relation to sanitary conveniences and canteens.

GENERAL

Many other duties are carried out by the Department, such as investigation of smell, noise, smoke and fly nuisances, which all add to the work carried out by your Public Health Department.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health, fellow officials in all Departments, and members of staff of the Public Health Department, for their loyal support and co-operation.

Stour Cottage,
20 Barrack Road,
Christchurch,
Hants.

CLEMENT WILLARD.

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendant.

T A B L E 1
SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Public Health Acts.

Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	350
Animal Keeping	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Accumulations and deposits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	173
Smell nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75
Clean Air Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	139
Noise Abatement Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Disinfection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Filthy Premises etc	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Disinfestation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Caravans (Individual)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	145
Camps	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	117
Water supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	106
Closet accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Public conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Dustbins	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	147
Refuse collection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	74
Refuse disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Places of Public Entertainment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Swimming baths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	308
Ponds, ditches, Streams	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Foresore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Other complaints	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Samples	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Agricultural Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

Housing Acts.

Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	392
Houses in Multiple Occupation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Housing Applications	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Improvement Grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	776
Standard Grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70
Qualification Certificates	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	267

Factories Act.

Factories with power	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Factories without power	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Outworkers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Workplaces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

T A B L E 1
(continued)

Pests and Animals

Rats and mice ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2031
Other pests ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	291
Pet animals Act ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28

Food and Drugs Act

Catering ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	221
Bakehouses ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Food Factories ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
School canteens ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Bakers shops ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Butchers shops ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	89
Grocers shops ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	186
Greengrocers and fruiterers ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	95
Fishmongers ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Fish-friers ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72
Ice-cream ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Sweet shops ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	55
Milk shops, dairies ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Licensed premises ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	62
Food vehicles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Food stalls and kiosks ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Food poisoning ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Food inspections ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57
Food complaints ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69
Sampling ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Wholesale Premises ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Food and Drugs Act General ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.

Offices ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	212
Retail shops ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	533
Wholesale and warehouses ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Catering and canteens ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	136
Fuel Storage depots ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Shops Act ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34

Miscellaneous.

Searches ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	243
Unclassified visits ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

TABLE 2

During the year complaints were received as detailed below:-

Unsound food ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	62
Dampness..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Dustbins..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	99
Fleas and bugs ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Nuisance from noise ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Drains ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Insects and wasps ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	55
Cockroaches ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Nuisance from animals, birds..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Nuisance from smoke and fumes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Housing conditions ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Housing enquiries ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	117
Accumulations..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51
Stream Pollution ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Defective roof ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Overcrowding ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Smells ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Insanitary conditions ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
General defects ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Rats and mice..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	514
Miscellaneous..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33

Tests, Samples and Specimens Taken

Ice cream ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Sea water ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Swimming baths ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Paddling pools ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Food ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Fish ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	81

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED

Table 4 shows the action taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions prejudicial to health.

T A B L E 3

NOTICES	OUTSTANDING	NUMBER SERVED	COMPLIED WITH	WORK DONE BY DEFAULT BY L.A.	OUTSTANDING 31.13.1973.
Informal	296	193	347	-	172
Statutory	13	12	15	-	10
TOTAL:	309	205	362	-	152

SUMMARY OF STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED

Section 39 Public Health Act 1936	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Section 17(1) Housing act 1957	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Section 9(1(A) Housing Act 1957	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Section 19 Housing Act 1964	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Section 93 Public Health Act 1936	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Section 4 Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1973 FOR
THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the
Factories Act 1961.

PART 1 of the ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

PREMISES	Register	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	6	4	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	119	37	2	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	125	41	2	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS:	No. of cases in which defects were founds.			No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Referred By H.M. Inspector.	To H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	2	1	1	1
Overcrowding (S.2.)	1	1	1	1
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	1	1	1	1
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	1	1	1	1
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	1	1
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)	1	1	1	1
(a) Insufficient	1	1	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	1	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	1	1
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to work outwork).	1	1	1	1
TOTAL:	2	1	1	1

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c).	Section 133.		Section 134	
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in wholesome premises.	Notices Served
Wearing Apparel	7	-	-	-	-
Plastics - Fancy goods	12	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	19	-	-	-	-